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KINGTON RURAL DISTRICT

HEREFORDSHIRE

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Annual Report on the state of the Public Health for the Year 1944.

Stevenson, Printer, Kington.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

H. F. Green, M.A., M.B., D.P.H. (on War Service from 17-7-42).

Acting Medical Officer of Health (Deputy County Medical Officer):

I. F. MacKenzie, M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.
(Priv. Tel. Weobley 59).

Clerk in Northern Area Medical Office:

B. J. Scandrett. (On War Service from 1939).

Temporary Clerk: Miss D. M. J. Bramfitt.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor (Part-Time):
J. P. Lingen (Tel. New Radnor 4).

Public Health Office:

4, Church Street, Leominster. (Tel. Leom. 95).

To the Chairman and Members of the Kington Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Members,

I present herewith the Annual Report for the year 1944.

The health of the community continued good throughout the twelve months and no serious epidemic occurred.

I have pleasure in once more placing on record the high standard maintained by your Sanitary Inspector in the execution of his varied duties.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

I. F. MACKENZIE.

June, 1945.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:

Area (in Acres)	45544
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to Rate Books	1381
Rateable Value...	£14,385
Sum represented by a penny rate	£63/2/0

Extract from Vital Statistics of the Year:

Birth Rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population) ... 19.4
Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 live and still births) 20.4
Death Rate (per 1,000 of estimated resident population) ... 13.6
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) 41.7
Maternal Mortality. There were no deaths under this heading in 1944.

Comparable Data for England and Wales 1944.

Birth Rate.	Still Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
17.6.	30.	11.6.	46.0.

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA:

Laboratory Facilities:

Laboratory facilities continued to be available at the County Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, which, for the duration of the war, is under the administration of the Medical Research Council.

Clinics:

There are none provided by the authority. Under a County Council Scheme a Child Welfare Clinic is held fortnightly in Kington, which residents in the Rural District are invited to attend.

The nearest Veneral Diseases Clinic is at the County Hospital, Hereford.

I am indebted to Mr. J. P. Lingen, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following statement (Sections C. to E.) furnished under Article 27 (Sub-Section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water: Sampling.

Samples are taken as and when required. Most of the villages are dependent upon wells the majority of which are of a shallow type. The village of Pembridge is solely dependent on wells and hand pumps. As there is a Sewage Works here, it is essential that a piped supply be provided as soon as possible. The Consulting

Engineer has been requested to make a special report on a water supply for Pembridge Village when making the water survey in the Rural District of Kington.

Drainage and Sewerage:

Three of the Villages have Sewage Works. They are Pembridge, Lyonshall, and Eardisley.

During the year there has been a certain amount of work done on the Sewage Field at Eardisley which has improved matters there very considerably and the Scheme is now functioning much better than it has for some years past. With constant attention there should not be any cause for complaint.

Rivers and Streams:

No pollution that calls for any comment. No complaints were received during 1944.

Refuse Disposal:

There are three refuse disposal centres which are under the control of the Council and which operate satisfactorily.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area:

Inspections: During the year 426 visits of inspection were made.

Number of Inspections under the Housing and Public Health Acts	128
Number of Inspections under Workshops and Factories Acts	62
Number of Inspections under the Milk and Daries Acts	163
Number of Inspections in connection with Water Supplies	45
Infectious Disease and visits in connection therewith ...	14
Premises and Clothing (lots) disinfected	14

Notices Issued.

Informal	29
Statutory	Nil
Defects Remedied	29

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts ...	42
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	60
2. Number of dwelling houses found not to be, in all respects, reasonably fit for human habitation	11

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:

Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil

Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) By Owners 11
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Forty-five Inspections were carried out during the year of premises where meat and other foods are sold by retail. I found these shops to be clean and well kept.

Food found to be unfit for human consumption.

4 lots of Butcher's Meat ... total 270 lbs.
Canned Fruits and Meats ... total 6½ dozen tins.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During 1944 there were only sixteen notifications of infectious disease. Of these, five were in respect of Measles and four of Scarlet Fever. One case of Diphtheria occurred, and there were single instances of Cerebrospinal Fever, Dysentery and Whooping Cough.

There is set out in the appended table an analysis of all the cases according to age.

Analysis of Total Notified Cases, according to age:

DISEASE.	Age of Patient.														
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	Over 40	Unknown	Total
Measles	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	5
Whooping Cough...	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever ...	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Pnuumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Though the numbers of children immunised is much lower than was to have been expected from the considerable efforts which have been made to persuade parents to have their children treated, the percentages attained approximate to and in some instances are higher than those reached in other parts of the country. The lack of interest at present shown by many parents exemplifies a well-recognised social phenomenon which is also reflected in the low proportion of children vaccinated against Small Pox and in the small take-up of the Ministry of Food Vitamin preparations for infants. Following the rush to have children protected when the Campaign for Diphtheria Immunisation was inaugurated in 1941 there has been a continuing lack of response by parents who did not then accept treatment even though the efficiency of our publicity methods have been stepped up by the co-operation of the District Nurse Health Visitors and School Medical Officers; and by the distribution of new leaflets and pre-paid acceptance cards to all homes where there are children under the age of 15 years.

By arrangement with the County Education Committee special immunisation sessions are held at the nearest school whenever completed forms for 5 or more children (of school or pre-school age) are received. When the number of acceptances is less than 5 they are retained until more are received or if the parents wish immediate action to be taken they are directed to the nearest Child Welfare Clinic.

Immunisation material is issued from the Leominster Office free of charge to doctors for the treatment of children in their practices. It should be noted that private doctors, some of whom do a lot of immunisation work in their practices, do not make a return to the Public Health Office on the number of children treated by them. These children therefore could not be included in the figures set out below.

Under 5 years of age.		Between 5 and 15 years of age.	
Number.	Percentage of Group.	Number.	Percentage of Group.
153	35.4 %	536	58.5 %

Tuberculosis.

At the end of 1944 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of 8 males and 12 females who normally reside in the Council's area.

During the year one new case was notified on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. During the same period 2 deaths occurred from this disease.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages).

Disease.	Male.	Female	Total.
Tuberculosis	1	2	3
Influenza	1	2	3
Cancer (all forms)	4	7	11
Heart and Blood Vessels ...	16	14	30
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ...	3	3	6
Diseases of Digestive System ...	0	2	2
Nephritis	0	1	1
Congenital Defects	1	2	3
Violence	1	2	3
Other Causes	3	4	7
Total	30	39	69